

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 5. This sheet, which includes Fig. 5, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7-9 are currently pending. Claims 2, 3, and 6 have been canceled without prejudice; Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8 have been amended; and Claim 9 has been added by the present amendment. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Figure 5 was objected to as not containing a legend such as “Prior Art”; Claim 8 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of Claim 1; Claim 5 was objected to as containing an informality; and Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,889,299 to Yamada (hereinafter “the ‘299 patent”).

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Figure 5 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that figure. Figure 5 has been amended to include the legend “Background Art”. Accordingly, the objection to Figure 5 is believed to have been overcome.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 8 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim. Claim 8 has been amended to more clearly recite non-means-plus-function elements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that, while Claim 1 recites only means-plus-function limitations, Claim 8 does not. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 8 clearly have different claim scope. Accordingly, the objection to Claim 8 is believed to have been overcome.

The objection to Claim 5 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim. Claim 5 has been amended to clarify the phrase objected to in the Office Action. Accordingly, the objection to Claim 5 is believed to have been overcome.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a semiconductor integrated circuit apparatus mounted on a predetermined circuit board, the apparatus comprising: (1) semiconductor information storage means for storing semiconductor information unique to the semiconductor integrated circuit apparatus, and (2) semiconductor information output means connected to the semiconductor information storage means for reading out the semiconductor information from the semiconductor information storage means in response to an externally supplied signal, and outputting the read-out semiconductor information. Further, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in canceled Claim 3. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the semiconductor information output means comprises connection control means, which is configured to be connected to external storage means storing a program, for controlling a read-out operation of the program stored in the external storage means, the program being used for executing the read-out operation of the semiconductor information, and control means for controlling the read-out operation and external outputting operation of the semiconductor information based on the read-out program read by the connection control means. Accordingly, the changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1. However, since Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original Claim 3, Applicants will address the references cited in the rejection of Claim 3.

The '299 patent is directed to a semiconductor integrated circuit connected to an external processor including a memory that stores data; a terminal that connects the memory with the processor; an information generation circuit that generates production information about the semiconductor integrated circuit; and a write circuit that writes the information to the memory before the semiconductor integrated circuit starts normal operation and when a

command from the processor ends.¹ However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '299 patent fails to disclose semiconductor information output means that comprise connection control means for controlling a read out operation of a program stored on an external storage means, wherein the program is used for executing the read out operation of the semiconductor information. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '299 patent fails to disclose semiconductor information output means that comprise control means for controlling the read-out operation and external operating operation of the semiconductor information based on the read-out program read by the connection control means, as recited in amended Claim 1. In this regard, Applicants note that the outstanding Office Action refers to column 6, lines 29-36 of the '299 patent as disclosing the elements recited in original Claim 3. However, Applicants note that an examination of that passage in the '299 patent reveals that it refers to the embodiment shown in Figure 5 of the '299 patent. Figure 5 of the '299 patent shows an internal circuit 30 of an integrated circuit including an ID generation circuit 31 and an ID write circuit 32 connected to an external memory 202. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '299 patent is silent regarding a program used for executing a read-out operation of the semiconductor information, recited in amended Claim 1. The '299 patent does not disclose connection control means for controlling read-out operation of the program from external storage means, or control means for controlling the read- out operation and the external outputting operation of the semiconductor information based on the read-out program read by the connection control means, as recited in amended Claim 1. For a non-limiting example, Applicants refer the Examiner to page 9, lines 17-22 of the specification.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and dependent Claim 4) patentably define over the '299 patent.

¹ See, e.g., Figures 1 and 9 and the discussion related thereto in the '299 patent.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 2 and 3 are rendered moot by the present cancellation of those claims.

Independent Claims 5, 7, and 8 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 5 and 8 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 5, 7, and 8 patentably define over the '299 patent.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 6 is rendered moot by the present cancellation of that claim.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claim 9 for examination on the merits. New Claim 9, which depends from Claim 7, clarifies that the semiconductor information includes at least one of a wafer number, information of a position on a wafer, and a manufacture time of the semiconductor integrated circuit. New Claim 9 is supported by the originally filed specification and does not add new matter.²

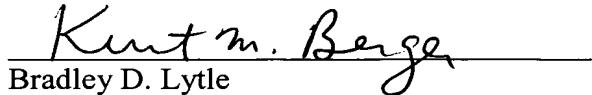
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 5, 7, and 8 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '299 patent.

² See, e.g., page 9, lines 1-5 of the specification.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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